REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	26 February 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Jonathan Hill
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Deep Throat
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Jerry Gerard
Producer:	Lou Perry
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Video Recording VHS/PAL
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Deep Throat	Running time:	57.55
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	57.55

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

… Please turn over

Display Conditions:

on film

Either

The film must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises).

Or

The film must not be publicly displayed in any place in which the film is available for supply, and must be shown in that place only to persons who make a direct request for the film.

on poster

Either

Any film poster relating to the film (whether or not the poster is attached to the cassette, case, or other container in which the film is kept), must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises).

Or

Any film poster relating to the film (whether or not the poster is attached to the cassette, case, or other container in which the film is kept), must not be publicly displayed in any place in which the film is available for supply, and must be shown in that place only to persons who make a direct request for the poster.

Descriptive Note:

Contains explicit sex scenes.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on 18 February 1998

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording entitled *Deep Throat* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Deep Throat is a well-known work of the pornography genre, originally produced on film in 1972. The feature combines a broadly humorous plot with explicit depictions of sexual activities. It contains prolonged close-up portrayals of 'deep throat' fellatio which degrade and demean the actor involved. A number of close-focus images of the genitals, which tend to dehumanise women by reducing them to body parts for male sexual use, are also included. However, these depictions are not protracted.

The Classification Office has considered the implications of the claims of *Deep Throat's* star that she appeared under duress. Her allegations have the potential to engage the prurient interest of viewers and may add titillatory appeal to the video recording. It is also possible that viewing sexual acts in the knowledge that they are the result of coercion may encourage further such acts. With these considerations in mind, the Classification Office has attempted to gauge the extent of public knowledge of the actor's revelations and has concluded that the story does not have such widespread currency as to markedly influence viewers' interpretations of the video recording.

The Classification Office has weighed the competing considerations of the issues raised under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 and s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act). The Office is of the opinion that the continued availability of the video recording is unlikely to be injurious to the public good provided it is restricted to an adult audience. Further limitation of the rights and freedoms guaranteed under s14 of the NZBR Act cannot be justified.

OFLC Ref: 9700679